However, ONGC has not signed any agreement with the State Government for establishing a gas-based power plant.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Import of petroleum products

†1259. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of crude petroleum and its products has been constantly increasing for the last three years;

(b) if so, the total value of crude petroleum and its products imported during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, separately; and

(c) the percentage of cost of their import for each year as against the total cost of import of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The value (in million US $) of crude oil and petroleum products imported during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 and its percentage share in total imports are as under:

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Import of crude oil and products	14146.0	17581.0	20382.0
Share in total imports (Per cent)	27.5%	28.6%	26.5%

Transportation of gas from Middle East

1260. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to transport natural gas from Iran/Middle East through Pakistan is still hanging in uncertainty;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal and the stumbling blocks in accomplishing the proposal; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to expedite the implementation of the pipeline transportation project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The proposal for import of natural gas through a transnational on-land pipeline from Iran to India transiting through Pakistan was recently discussed at the highest level between the two countries. It has been decided to initiate conversation without commitment on this prospect in the overall context of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. A meeting of the Petroleum/Gas Ministers of the two countries is envisaged in this regard. The Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas held a conversation without commitment in Tehran with his Iranian counterpart on 5th-6th December, 2004. The issue was also touched upon during the Minister's call on the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 24.11.2004.

Cost of production of petrol and diesel

†1261. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that diesel and petrol are produced within the country as per the requirement of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have assessed the production cost of the said petro-products; and

(d) if so, the estimated average production cost during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.